

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF DURHAM

"Downtown by history and by choice"

Bi-Weekly Newsletter

September 18 - October 1, 2018

From the Associate Pastor . . .

Dear Storm-Tossed Friends,

First, I want to thank all of you who sought shelter in worship at FPC on Sunday morning. It was great to hear the hubbub, and to see how delighted everyone was to be together, unharmed, in the house of the Lord. In addition, to be able to pray for our neighbors still smarting from the storm's sting, to sing *Eternal Father Strong to Save* in the midst of a hurricane, gave me chills. So thank you! And stay open to discern the ways in which we will be called to participate in the on-going hurricane recovery, day by day. (See **Tyler Momsen-Hudson's** letter in today's newsletter.)

This **Sunday, September 23**, we welcome two important guests to our church. First, we are delighted to have **Homer Ashby** back at FPC to lead the Faith and Community Class at 9:45 in a discussion of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Letter from a Birmingham Jail*. Although it was written 45 years ago (April 16, 1963), many of its prophetic themes still ring true for us as Christians.

And secondly, we will be using excerpts of Dr. King's letter in Sunday's worship liturgy as we welcome members of **Step-Up, Durham** and their families who will be participating in the worship service. Step-Up, Durham is a non-profit organization supported by FPC which offers free work-force readiness training, connections to real jobs, and support to those who have been underemployed or unemployed for some time. For approximately 60% of the 312 graduates who have successfully completed the Step-Up Employment Readiness Workshop over the past three years, the major barrier to employment in their past has been a criminal background. Thus the impact of Dr. King's letter *from jail* still resounds with their experience, and with their desire to be restored to a rightful place in the community. Because one of Jesus' primary actions in all four Gospels was to restore people to community, I am a huge advocate for Step-Up, Durham. I look forward to introducing to you **Syretta Hill**, Director of Step-Up, Durham, along with her staff, and the program graduates this Sunday.

Please join me in offering hospitality to all refugees made temporarily homeless by the hurricane, as well as our guest presenters this Sunday. FPC is always good at being a place of hospitality and welcome.

Out of chaos, hope,
Marilyn

Birth Announcements:

Congratulations to **Ben and Stacey Neece** on the birth of a daughter, **Vivian Marinn**, born September 15 in Wilkesboro, NC. **Vern and Beth**



Neece are the proud grandparents.

Michael and Kate Lester Bacon have a new son, born September 17. His name is **Benjamin Cater Lester Bacon**. Everyone is doing fine. **Tom and Ellen Bacon** are the proud grandparents.

Added this week:

Robert Bloom, father of Tom Bloom

Brent Barber, brother-in-law of Christyn Klinck

Family of B. J. Hunter, friends of David Parkins

Bill Goodwin, husband of Elizabeth High's niece

Beth Livingston, friend of Carol Wills

Hayden Williams, family member of Carol Wills

Home/Care Communities:

Franzi Rokoske

Carolyn Wolfe

Brookdale Senior Living, Durham: **Julian Boswell**

Croasdaile Pavilion: **Bette Conroy, Bob Rankin**

Dubose Center, Chapel Hill: **Mary Clark**

Durham Regent: **John Kerr, Ann Prospero**

Pruitt Health at Carolina Point, Durham: **Helen Garrison**

The Forest at Duke: **Fran Bryant, Peaches McPherson**

Family and Friends of Church Members and Staff:

Fran Alwood, mother of Jennie Alwood

Demario Brooks, friend of the Walk-in Ministry

Marc and Holly Crawford, friends of Brianna Bennett

Marsha Hussung, sister of Brent Curtis

Ben Johnston-Krase, pastor of Durham's Farm Church

Kathy Johnston, niece of Jeanne Hervey

John Morey, father of Robin Morey



Dear First Pres family,
Thank you so much for the many expressions of sympathy shown to me and the McMillian family during the illness and passing of my brother-in-law, Dell. Your phone calls, beautiful cards, handwritten sentiments, prayers, hugs, flowers and food brought us much comfort. I am grateful especially to **Kate Busa** who willingly took on

administrative tasks in my absence. I am truly blessed to be connected with such a kind, loving, and caring congregation.

With a grateful heart,

Valerie

NOTES

Congratulations to FPC Parish Associate **Susan Dunlap**, who was awarded

the **Presbyterian Women's Lifetime Membership Award** on Sunday in worship.

Many thanks to the *Pastoral Care Committee of the Diaconate* for making calls to many of our home-bound members immediately before Hurricane Florence to make sure that everyone had a safe place to shelter during the storm. We are also grateful to **Mt. Bethel Presbyterian Church** for providing additional blessing bags for our church to distribute this week.

The **2017-2018 Annual Report** is now available for viewing on the church's website. Click [*Annual Report*](#) to view online. A limited number of copies have been printed and are available from the table in the foyer. Thank you to the church staff and committee chairs for helping make this endeavor possible again this year.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Save the Date: Sunday, September 30

The **Stewardship Kick-off Luncheon** for young and old is **Sunday, September 30 in Watts-Hill Hall, immediately following worship.**

OFFICER MEETINGS

Monday, September 24

6:00 p.m. Diaconate

6:30 p.m. Officers' Supper

7:00 p.m. Session

Copies of Session minutes may be requested from **Christyn Klinck**, Clerk or Session (clerkofsession@firstpres-durham.org), Minutes of 2018 Session meetings are now available on the church website, www.firstpres-durham.org.



September 2 - October 7

Now may the Lord of peace . . . give you peace at all times in all ways.
— 2 Thessalonians 3:16

The **Rev. Jimmie Hawkins**, director of the PC(USA) Washington Office and former minister at Covenant Presbyterian Church here in Durham, confronts national issues of Peace and Justice daily.

On September 14 at a Prayer Vigil and Rally sponsored by Church World Service outside the White House, Jimmie spoke to the Administration's proposed plan to admit 25,000 or fewer refugees in 2019. Jimmie said: "As people of faith we understand that when the state won't speak, when the nation won't speak, that we will raise our voices to speak louder to say we stand with refugees from wherever they come." He continued: "There is a place in this country and our churches and in our homes for all people who have a need."

Thank you, Jimmie, for speaking so eloquently for us!

A recording of this event from Church World Service's Facebook page can be viewed at

<https://www.facebook.com/CWSImmigrationandRefugeProgram/videos/20548777890188>).



YOUTH GROUPS

Middle Schoolers

Sunday evenings 4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

High Schoolers

Sunday evenings 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Click [here](#) to view the Youth Groups calendar for 2018-2019.

Sunday, September 23

25th day in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Members of Durham's StepUp organization will join us in worship

The Hunger for Change Offering will be received. Please bring a generous offering to help combat hunger.

Meditation: *The Hidden Life of Trees* - **Marilyn Hedgpeth**, preaching

Liturgist: **Jennie Alwood**

Greeter: **Chris Williams**

After Worship Greeters: **Carol Carson** (side/font);

Barbara Buckley rear/narthex)

Ushers: **Emily Wilkins** (head), **TBD** (flowers), **TBD** (counting), **Dale Gaddis**, **John Mozart**, **need one more** - Click [here](#) to sign up to usher.

Sunday, September 30

26th day in Ordinary Time

9:45 a.m. - Sunday School (as usual)

11:00 a.m. Intergenerational Worship

Mindy Douglas, preaching

Following worship, everyone is invited to Watts-Hill Hall for lunch and to hear a presentation on this year's Stewardship Campaign.

Pledge materials will be handed out. If you are unable to be present, please know that someone from the Stewardship Committee will visit you in early October.

Liturgist: *Amy Dillon*

Greeter: *Debbie Hamlin-Aggrey*

After Worship Greeters: *Brent Curtis* (side/font);

Lenore Champion (rear/narthex)

Ushers: *Emily Wilkins* (head), *TBD* (flowers), *TBD*(counting), *Christy Gudaitis*, **need two more** - Click [here](#) to sign up to usher.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

(Click [here](#) to see full list of class offerings)

Children's Sunday School, Grades 3 - 6

We will be trying out a new rotation model of Sunday School, which will allow our 3rd – 6th graders opportunities to experience the foundational stories of the Old Testament in many different ways through drama, art, games, LEGOS, music, cooking, gardening, etc. Should be great fun for the students and for the teaching teams! We're up to our elbows in the **Creation Story** from Genesis this month. The class meets in room 201 of the CE Building at 9:45. And guess what story we get to explore in October? **The Flood!** Sunday School could not be more timely, could it? Bring friends and join us - 9:45 a.m. on the second floor of the education building!

Adult Sunday School resumes this Sunday following the hiatus during Hurricane Florence. All 8 adult options for learning on Sunday morning will be offered this Sunday (Lord willing, and the creek don't rise!).

Adult Studies

Faith and Community Class: We're excited about the new series this September focusing on *Love Letter of Faith* by some of our favorite leaders. **Sam Miglarese** kicked-off the class, discussing the Apostle Paul's letter to the Romans, and **Mac McCorkle** followed on September 9 with some of Reinhold Niebuhr's letters expressing his faith. This **Sunday, September 23**, we are pleased to host **Homer Ashby**, who will lead a discussion of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s *Letter From a Birmingham Jail* ([link](#)). Excerpts from Dr. King's letter will be used in the worship service on Sunday as well.

The art of letter-writing is not dead. Coming in October, **Joe Harvard** will lead a class on the paper, *Reclaiming Jesus*. Please join us in Watts-Hill Hall on Sunday

at 9:45 a.m. All are welcome!

Lectionary Class: Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

September 23: Is there a difference between wisdom and knowledge, or between wisdom and scholarship? How does a wise person act?

September 30: If God is in charge, what role do we have? Are there any situations in which, by our witness or our prayer or even a brave action like Esther's, we can have an important part to play? Join us for discussion at 9:45 in the East Parlor.

Journeys and Scratch Class: This hybrid class of seasoned and younger members is exploring *Prophetic Voices* this year. Join us in **room 205** of the education building at 9:45. **We will join the Faith and Community Class this Sunday, September 23, to hear Homer Ashby lead a discussion on Martin Luther King's Letter from a Birmingham Jail.**

On **September 30**, will meet to discuss the Belhar Confession (a recent addition to the Presbyterian Church's confessions that is based on the South Africa experience), and on **October 7**, we will begin Brueggemann's "*The Prophetic Imagination*." Also in October, **Joe Harvard** is coming to Faith and Community to talk about the *Reclaiming Jesus* document and the Barmen Declaration and we will meet again with the Faith and Community Class.

Spiritual Formation This year-round class for women is led by **Susan Dunlap** and explores the topic of spiritual formation. Join us at 9:45 in basement classroom B-16.

Becoming an Anti-Racist Church – an eight-week course (was set to begin September 16) on themes of racism, diversity, white privilege and barriers to inclusivity led by FPC's Racial Equity Task Force. Class meets in the basement conference room below the sanctuary.

The Pleasures of Parenting – a time of discussion and support for parents who find raising children in today's world to be an exciting and daunting task. The class will meet in the apartment classroom, upstairs in the church house at 9:45.

SCRATCH (Young Adults) "AfterChurch"

The Scratch/Young Adult group will meet on **Sundays, September 23, October 7, 14, 28** following worship for AFTER CHURCH in the parlor room down under our sanctuary for a cheap (\$3!) lunch, time to catch up with one another, and a bit of time to practice the old spiritual discipline of slow reading sacred texts (*lectio divina*). We do not stay more than 45 minutes once everyone is gathered. Please talk with our leaders **Mary Berry, Alex Stayer-Brewington**, and **Rev. Cherrie Henry**, if you have questions. Childcare available upon request. Anyone interested is welcome to join us.



Perhaps you have been visiting First Presbyterian Church for a while and want to know more about the theology, the mission, the polity and the shape of active membership at FPC. The opportunity to dig a little deeper and ask those pertinent questions is available during the month of September as we host a

Membership Inquiry Class from 9:45 – 10:45 in the Wilson Parlor for those who are interested. **On Sundays, September 23 and September 30 we will continue the Membership Inquiry Class from 9:45 – 10:45 in the Wilson Parlor for those who are interested.** Leaders of these initial classes will be **Sam Miglarese** and **David Smith**. If you have babies or children in tow, you are welcome to bring them to Sunday School or the nursery, or you can keep them with you during the class. We hope you will meet some like-minded people, make new friends, and explore membership at FPC as part of the journey of your own (and your family's) Christian nurture and faith development. Hope to see you there!



for 7th, 8th, 9th graders and up

(plus youth from Covenant PC who will be joining us)

Well, unfortunately we missed our visit to Immaculate Conception this past Sunday, so we will have to reschedule it. **This**

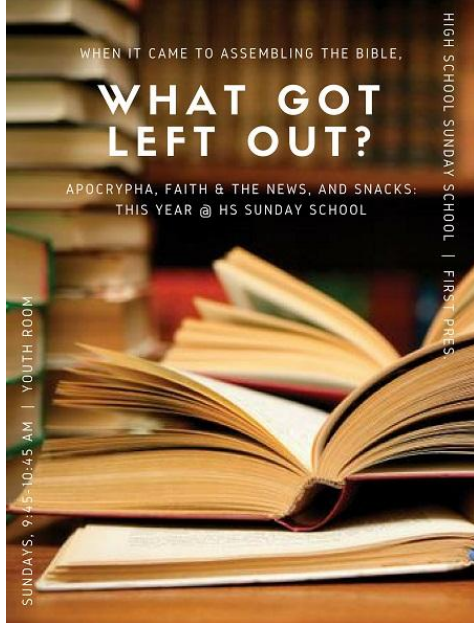
Sunday, September 23, we have been invited to be the guest of Ar Razzaq Islamic Center, 1009 W. Chapel Hill Street, where **Imam Greg Rashad** will welcome us. Come to the FPC at 9:30 and we will carpool to the masjid together. We should return to FPC by 11:15. Mentors are always invited to join us. We should be back at FPC by 11:00, for those needing to be here for worship. Then on **Friday, September 28**, we are invited to attend Shabbat worship at Judea Reform. Stay tuned for details of that visit. Learning to be good guests is part of our agenda for the semester as we will visit 9 different faith communities in the Triangle. Then in the winter, we will spend some time in the classroom articulating what it means to be a Christian in the Reformed Tradition. Contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth** if you have any questions.

Youth Sunday School

Grades 9-12

Join us in the youth classroom, below the sanctuary at 9:45 on Sunday mornings.

Class leader: **John Weicher**, along with **Emily Hansel, Sharron Johnson, Sarah Beaverson, Leah Graves** (sub) and **Leslie**



New Bible Study: Isaiah

New Time: Fridays, Noon - 1:00 p.m.

What can we learn from the visions of the prophet Isaiah? Perhaps the people who walk in darkness will see a great light again! I attended a funeral not too long ago, and the person being memorialized was noted as saying that he insisted upon a little bit of Isaiah and a little bit of jazz every day. Thus my interest was piqued into delving into the longest of all the books in the Hebrew Bible: Isaiah. This year's study **begins this Friday, September 21 at a new time: noon – 1 p.m.** in room 205 of the Education Building, and is open to everyone. You are welcome to bring a bag lunch and eat while we are reading, discussing, and praying. We will be using the *Kerygma* Curriculum of Isaiah, and the Bible for our study. Contact **Marilyn Hedgpeth** (m.hedgpeth@firstpres-durham.org) if you have any questions.

Our First Parents Night Out – September 23

School has started, youth groups have begun, Sunday School is in full swing, and now its time for parents to get together for a little relaxation and conversation. The **Christian Education Committee** is sponsoring its first Parents' Night out this Sunday from **4:45 – 6:15** (yes, you get 15 extra minutes this year). Bring your children to the foyer at 4:45, and the children will spend time on the playground, enjoy a light meal together, and play some board games after supper. **PLEASE BRING A BOARD GAME TO SHARE** that is age-appropriate. And please let us know if your child has any food allergies. We are glad to offer this opportunity to our "holding families", many of whom have young children and youth here at the same time. And we hope this gives your group some time together to plan for future gatherings. **Kim Abels** will go with you to Bull City Burger to see what kinds of plans you might have. Please let Marilyn know if you have questions or concerns.

DayTimers' Luncheon

Tuesday, September 25 at 11:30 a.m.

**Neo China Restaurant
4015 University Drive, Durham**

Maxie Honeycutt is arranging. RSVP to Maxie at 919-286-4680

Happenings around FPC

Responding to Hurricane Florence

Even as storm waters continue to rise, we can respond to Hurricane Florence.

First, pray for the victims, churches, and emergency workers affected by the disaster. Also pray for the rest of us as we find ways to respond. I am working with others in New Hope Presbytery to support churches and congregations in the recovery, which will span years. As Presbyterians, we will approach this effort with deliberation and care, but we also wish to respond quickly. Donations to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance will be most helpful and may be made online at <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000169/>.

FPC is also assembling **Cleanup Buckets** to assist homeowners trying to repair flooded homes. **Please bring supplies from the [list](#) to church this Sunday, September 23, and volunteers will assemble the buckets on Sunday afternoon.** Monetary donations will also help greatly, and checks to FPC, Memo: "Buckets," will allow us to fully stock the buckets.

The Day of Service(see details below) scheduled for October 6 will still occur, and it is possible that a FPC hurricane response can be organized by that time. If not, future volunteer work will be available.

Thank you for your response to this catastrophe in our own backyard.

Tyler Momsen-Hudson



Day of Service Saturday, October 6

FPC supports a number of ministries through its budget and through the work of individual members. The **Service and Mission Committee** is offering volunteer opportunities at several ministries on Saturday, October 6. Possible sites include the

Foodbank of NC, Habitat for Humanity, Gleaning, Families Moving Forward and others. Volunteers of all ages will have opportunities to serve. Signup information, waiver forms, and other information will be available later this month. To suggest additional organizations or to help lead a worksite, please contact ***Tyler Momsen-Hudson*** at tylermmh@embarqmail.com.

Habitat Building Trip to Honduras

Here we go again! ***Miguel and Margaret Rubiera*** will be leading another 10-day building trip to Honduras with Habitat for Humanity from **Feb 1 - 10, 2019**. If you have been searching for a meaningful, challenging way to love and

serve your (international) neighbor, learn about the culture and realities of life in Central America, then consider joining us. While there, we will provide tangible, hands-on help for our Honduran brothers and sisters, and develop wonderful relationships that transcend language and cultural barriers. All-inclusive cost of trip: \$2,000. Contact Margaret at margaretmr29@gmail.com for more information.

September Birthdays

October Birthdays

The next church newsletter will be issued October 2
Please submit your articles / news to Valerie in the church office
by Sunday, September 30

Online Church Calendar



Visit our website